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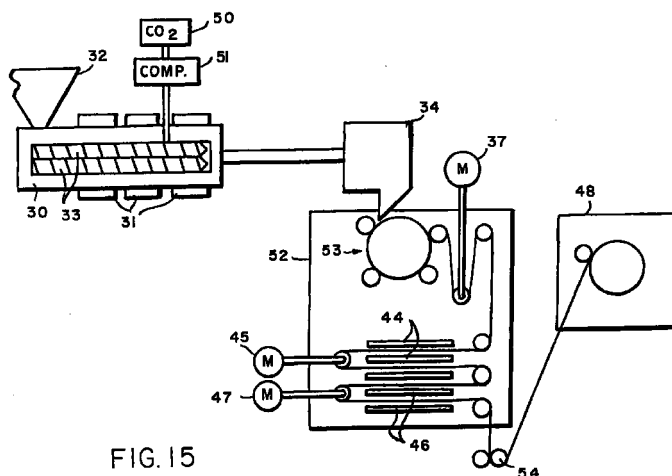
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(54) **Supermicrocellular foamed materials**

(57) A method of producing foamed polymeric comprises extruding polymer melt in an extruder barrel of polymer processing apparatus with a polymer processing screw, and further processing the melt to form a polymeric foam article, introducing a blowing agent into the barrel in the vicinity of the screw to form a single-phase

solution of polymeric material and blowing agent within the barrel at an elevated pressure and conveying the solution as a fluid stream within a passageway of the extruder and further processing the polymer melt to form a microcellular polymeric foam article.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 12 1925

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 20 October 2000	Examiner Oudot, R
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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